

## Fernald Community Reuse Organization (CRO) 1997 Highlights

*During 1997, the Fernald CRO focused on establishing its infrastructure; initiating relationships within the tri-township (Crosby, Ross, Morgan) communities and the Fernald work force for which it serves; securing funding through the Department of Energy (DOE); and contracting the services of an economic development professional. Some of the CRO's most noteworthy accomplishments during the year are summarized below:*

### January/February:

- Participated in three facilitated workshops to develop its strategic path forward and define clear mission and vision statements, ground rules, commitments and values, focus areas and committee structure;

### March:

- Presented the CRO's path forward to the public for feedback at the March 4 CRO meeting;
- Appointed its Board of Trustees and Nomination Committee to address membership issues;
- Developed five personnel, accounting and procurement policies and procedures required to receive a start-up grant from DOE;
- Developed and submitted a \$150,100 grant application to DOE for start-up activities, including retaining professional services of an economic development specialist;

### April:

- Received approval from the Ohio Secretary of State on April 11 that the CRO is an Ohio non-profit corporation;
- Received a \$150,100 start-up grant from the DOE Office of Worker and Community Transition (OWCT) on April 30;
- Applied to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for exemption from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3);
- Participated in a DOE OWCT-sponsored workshop in Oakland, Calif., to network with CRO members from around the country;

### May:

- Developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) package to contract the services of an economic development specialist to help the group plan its strategies, develop performance measures, and secure future funding for development and implementation of a Community Transition Plan;

### June:

- Submitted the draft RFP package to DOE for review;
- Developed a procedure on management of government furnished equipment;
- Established accounts with a local financial institution;
- Participated in a National Business Incubation Workshop at the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Sciences;

**July:**

- Issued the RFP and initiated a communications campaign to inform prospective bidders via targeted mailings, post cards, news releases, on-line notices, postings on the CRO's Web site, classified ads in local papers, Fernald Envoys and Fernald publication articles;
- Established an office in the JAMTEK Building near the Fernald site using excess government furnished equipment from Fernald;

**August/September:**

- Evaluated bids from RFP, interviewed candidates, and awarded an eight-month contract (through April 1998) to local economic development specialist Curt Paddock, Paddock Management+ Services;
- Finalized the Code of Regulations;

**October:**

- Introduced Paddock to public at the Oct. 7 CRO meeting;
- Convened two new committees: the Administration/Evaluation Committee met on Oct. 20 to reevaluate the CRO's committee structure, and the Land Re-Use Committee met with the Fernald Natural Resource Trustees (NRT) on Oct. 21 to begin a dialogue on potential re-use of Fernald land;

**November:**

- Convened two new committees: the Equipment and Materials Committee and the Economic Development Committee met on Nov. 1 to outline a path forward;
- Developed two draft grant applications: a \$50,000 application to the Ohio Department of Development to fund an Entrepreneurial Program, and a \$250,000 application to the DOE OWCT to fund the development of a Community Transition Plan;
- Established contacts with the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Sciences and the Manufacturers' Consortium to begin a dialogue on establishing partnerships to retrain and employ skilled machinists;
- Received notice from the Internal Revenue Service that the CRO is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (c)(3);

**December:**

- Issued a letter to the DOE and NRTs recommending that the NRT planning process include provisions for an assessment of the commercial viability and economic potential of a 23-acre portion of the Fernald site near Willey Road, and an assessment of the feasibility for integrating recreational uses into the final NRT land use plan;
- Submitted the \$250,000 planning grant application to DOE;
- Submitted the \$50,000 grant application to the Ohio Department of Development; and,
- Initiated development of the CRO's public participation plan.